

DECLARATION,

SET FORTH BY THE
LORD LIEUTENANT
AND COVNCCELL.

For vindicating the Honour and justice of
His MAJESTIES Government and Ministers
heere, from severall foule and scandalous
aspersions endeavoured to be
layed on them:

By *Alice Lady Moore*, Viscountesse dowager of *Drogheda*,
Sir Patrick Wemyss Knight, and *Captaine John Ponson-*
by, in severall Letters (here also inserted)
directed from the said persons to some
persons in His MAJESTIES
Kingdom of England.

all



DVBLIN,

Printed by VVILLIAM BLADEN, Printer to
the Kings most Excellent Majesty,

Anno Dom. 1645.





By the Lord Lieutenant and Councell.

OR MONDE.



HEREAS about the sixt day of Ianuary last, there was Intelligence given to Vs the Lord Lieutenant, of a dangerous Conspiracy, plotted and intended, for surprising His Majesties Towne and Garrison of Drogheda, Whereupon sundry examinations were taken for finding out the truth of the matter in all circumstances, and the Contrivers and intended Actors therein, that so We might be the better guided to prevent that dangerous Designe, which Wee cleerely foresaw might (in the consequences of it) break out into far greater and more generall mischiefs, especially in the distracted condition wherein this Kingdome stands in present. And whereas Wee found in those Examinations divers Persons charged in severall degrees, concerning the said Conspiracie. Wee therefore (in discharge of Our dutie) were necessitated to commit to restraint as many of them as could be found, as well for preventing the execution of the Designe, as for present terror to others, not to presume to attempt any thing in that matter, as also to the end those Prisoners might be (in due time) fully heard, upon a faire and indifferent triall, amongst which Persons soe committed, there were these three, namely Alice Lady Moore Viscountes Dowager of Drogheda, Sir Patr: Wemys knight and Captaine Iohn Ponsonby, who not only by the testimony of others, but alsoe by their owne confessions on their examinations, stand charged (though in differing degrees) concerning that Conspiracy, and who notwith-

standing the great lenitie and mildnes of the proceedings held with them, have in severall Letters, lately come to Our hands (and signed by them, and directed to severall Persons in his Majesties Kingdome of England) endeavoured to lay fowle and scandalous aspersions on his Majesties Government and us his ministers therein, and that intentionally and purposely done by them, in hope by such unjust and causeles aspersions invented by them, to gaine beleefe from some (who know not the truth of the matter) that their committal was causes and our proceeding with them unjust. And albeit Wee no way intend hereby to prejudice the said Persons or any others charged with guilt in that Conspiracy, but doe leave the judgement and determination thereof to those Lawes and judicatories to whose Cognisance the same is proper. Yet considering how undutifully and indeed injuriously his Majesties authority in Our persons is traduced by those three Persons, in their said Letters, as if We had in their Cases varied from the rules of justice and equitie, with this addition also in the case of Sir Patrick Wemys, that he labors to infer a nationall quarrell, in regard of his being of the scottish Nation, And in regard Wee find by some of those Letters which Wee have seen, that some of those Persons have written other Letters upon this Subject, wherein it is probable, that they have not spared to traduce this Government as Wee find they have done in the said Letters which are come to Our hands, Wee therefore hold it fit for vindicating the honor and justice of his Majesties Government intrusted with us, and the uprightness and moderation of the proceeding in this matter of Vs his Ministers, to set forth this Iust and true Declaration.

When by divers Examinations Wee found those Persons charged touching the said Conspiracy, Wee did (in discharge of Our duty) committ them to restraint, in his Majesties Castle of Dublin, where Persons of eminent qualitie are usually committed, and there they were to continue in the condition of close Prisoners, untill they should

should be fully examined, Sir Patrick Wemys was committed on the 11 of January, the Lady Moore on the 16 of January, and Captaine Ponsonby on the 8th. day of January in which condition they continued (yet every of them with the attendants they desired, and with full and free admision of all needfull Provision and accomodation for them) untill the 22 of January, and then (their examinations having been fully taken) they were set free from their close Imprisonment, yet so as they were to continue Prisoners in the Castle, having the liberty of the House untill further direction of this Board.

But afterwards Wee observing that many persons repaired to them, under cullor of visitts, & that they made ill use of the favor granted them, in the freeing them from their close imprisonment, Wee then (to prenent any further evill Consequence to the publique) did order at this board, on the 23th. of January, that none should be admitted to repaire to them, without speciall licence from Vs the Lord Lieutenant, other then their Wives and Children, and necessary Servants, and in that manner they continued for a time, no manner of restriction being at any time used, for bringing them all needfull provision for sustinance and accomodation.

On the 26th. of April the Lady Moore petitioning this Board for her liberty, upon such security and conditions as We should thinke fit, it was signified to Vs on her behalfe, that in case Wee should not think it fit to release her, she desired that she might be confined for a time to her Sonnes house at Saint Mary Abbey in Dublin, and after to a Country house of her mothers at Dromnagh, within two miles of Dublin, and thereupon (in favor to her) it was then ordered, that she and others should become bound by Recognizance to his Majestie with condition that she should confine her selfe during Easter term, to the said house in Dublin, and that at the end of that rearme she should confine her selfe to the Towne and Lands of Dromnagh, and to appeare Personally at this Board within two dayes

dayes next after notice or warning to be left to that purpose at the said house in Saint Mary Abbey, and then not to depart without speciall licence of this Board; and that Recognizance being acknowledged, she was then released from her imprisonment in His Majesties Castle of Dublin, and in that liberty she still continues.

And for Sir Patrick Wemys & Captain Ponsonby, they still continue prisoners in his Majesties said Castle, without any further strictnes used towards them other then as is formerly herein mentioned.

And considering that the Offences wherewith those three persons stand charged, are of such an high and transcendent nature, that if they were brought to their trialls, it is likely (though Wee not pre-judge them) it might perhaps prove penall to them, in a higher degree, then it seemes they themselves doe apprehend, Wee therefore have not been soe forward hetherto in bringing them to their trialls, as being indeed unwilling to use the uttermost severity against them. And whether or noe that favor and indulgence used by us towards them have found with them, that gratitude which Wee have deserved may appeare in their said Letters which follow here verbatim.

Sir,

I Am confident that you have heard of my harsh and cruell usag; I still remaine in the same condition, and am not to expect other, from these hands, by whose rodd I am scourged, I have no comfort, but a just cause, from which neither I nor my companions will shrink, though death pursue us, I desire your care of us, so as we may not be forgotten, if possible safety and releasement may be procured for us, Our enemies are bould, & we humbled, and are not to thinke of happinesse, if it come not from the Kingdom wherein you are, I know I need not use much perswasions to you, beleev-
ing you have not forgotten our miseries, since you were with

us, Therefore I will no further trouble you, but conclude,
wishing you and yours increase of happinesse with honor,
and shall ever remaine

Your affectionat Anne

*From the Castle of Dublin,
the 22. of April, 1645.*

and humble Servant,

Alice Moore.

For Major Generall *Crawford*, these.

My Lo.

Yours of *October* came not to my hands untill the *March*
following, in which time here landed the Bishop of *Ossory*
Williams, who reported confidently your Lordship was dead,
so as all things which belonged unto you heere, was thought
to be disposed of, which was in the power of our State, This
was a great addition to the heaviest of my misfortunes had I
not been revived by a better and truer informer, soone after,
this prevented me with passion, for so great a misfortune, to
be added unto my miseries, so that I did not acquaint your
Lordship with my cruell usage, which power here pleases to
infect on me, for no other cause, then adhering to those
English, which are unwilling to humble themselves unto the
mercies of the Irish, I perceive by your Lordships Letter, the
constant affection you still beare to my deare Lord and his,
who are now great sufferers, being loaded with frownes and
severe punishment from those of whom wee were to expect
justice, in another kind, but now poore Protestants despair
of that, and therefore must resolve to taste and drinke deeply
of the bitter cupp, before wee shall be admitted unto the
sweet, My Lo. our hope is much in your Lordship and your
like,

like, that wee shall not be forgotten, but that some course may be thought on for our release, I am now in the Castle close Prisoner, where I have been fifteen weeks, no meanes allowed, all sustenance taken from me other then what I can shift for, I know your Lordships goodnesse will judge this harsh dealing with the wife of him that hath lost life spent his Estate to the utmost of his power no way receiving any repa-
 ration other then this I now suffer with many threats of de-
 stroying the remaine of his deare blood, Good my Lord give
 me leave to urge your favour in this great extremitie, to take
 me so farr into your thoughts, as you will procure what reme-
 dy may be had, for our redemption, out of this cruell subjec-
 tion, for which favor with many others you will ever oblige,
 I humbly beg your Lordships
 care of my deare *Adam*. *Your most humble*

From the Castle of Dublin,
the 23. of April, 1645.

Servant

Alice Moore.

For the Right Honorable the Lord
 Viscount *Conway* these present.

Sir,

I Received a Letter from Sir *Francis Hamilton*, wherein hee
 was pleased to take notice of the hard condition of my self
 and others, that are heere committed close prisoners, in the
 Castle of *Dublin* these sixteen weeks, and withall hee writ to
 mee, that himselfe and my friends there, were thinking of
 some course for my release, and tels me, there is none so rea-
 dy as your selfe, to contribute for my enlargement, Sir I give
 you many thanks, that you will be pleased at this time to
 stand

stand my friend, when for the most part all my friends hath forsaken mee, I suffer heere for my affection, and for the disaffection I haue to those, that has ruind us all, and in the third place for being a Scotsman, these be my crimes, and if they had been greater, I did not expect so much severity from the hands of those, whom I have so faithfully and affectionately served, but time will trie all, and I hope and am confident of it, that when busines comes to be rightly understood, I shall not be found the man, that deserved so heavy a punishment, as is now laid upon me, Sir I shall earnestly intreat your favour, and furtherance at this time, that you would be pleased to joine with the rest of my friends there, that some speedy course may be taken for my enlargement, the manner how to effectuat it, I leave to your selfe and the rest of my friends, & whatsoever favour you shall be pleased to extend to me at this time, shall be ever acknowledged by Sir

Dublin Castle the 23.

Your affectionat friend

April, 1645.

and faithfull Servant

For my noble friend Sir Robert
King Knight, these at London,

P. Wemyss.

Worthy Cozen,

I Have written to some of my friends at London, and acquainted them how I am close prisoner at the Castle, the cause of my Comittall, and the particulars of it, I leave to the relation of Mr. Traile, I shall intreat you to joine with the rest of my friends, concerning a course to be taken for my enlargement, for I have many enemies heere, and the more, be.

cause. I am a Scotsman, Sir I have that confidence in you although our acquaintance be almost forgotten, yet our relation in blood cannot, that you will contribute all you can for my enlargement, for my sufferings heere are much, I would have enlarged my selfe at this time, but I dare not, for feare my Letters miscarry, so expecting your assistance at this time of my greatest need, I am,

Dublin Castle 23 April, 1645.

Your affectionate Cozen

and Servant,

P. Wemyss.

For my noble cozen Colonel Wemyss these at London.

Sir,

I believe you have heard long ago, how Sir Robert Hannay, & my self are here close prisoners in the Castle of Dublin, & I believe you have heard it diversly reported the cause why we were Comitted, but for my owne part I know no good nor just ground for it, but that wee are Scotismen, and so fit to suffer, whatsoever shall be laid upon us, They will not bring us to any tryall, but leaves us heere, where wee shall be all our dayes, if our friends doe not mediate for our releafe, for wee have no friends heere, no not one, After you have spoken with Mr. Traile, if you will be pleased to afford us your favour, in using some meanes to helpe, towards our enlargement, you shall much oblige

Dublin Castle the 23 April, 1645.

Your affectionate friend

and Servant,

P. Wemyss.

Sir, I pray you present my humble service to your owne Lady, and to Sterling, and his noble Lady, My good Wife doth the like to you all.

For my noble friend Generall Major Crawford, these:

Honorable Sir;

THe small acquaintance I had with you in *Ireland*, with the ample relation of your noble A&ts, since your departure from us, have emboldned me, to present these my miserable conditions, for daily being frightened by the great incursions of the bloody lately called Rebels here with us, even unto our chiefeſt Garrisons, ſome few Officers with my ſelfe, reſolved to expell them, our Towne, whoſe words and actions rather ſeemed to perfect their begun maſſacre, upon the remaine of the poore Engliſh, then any way to ſupport our fading condition, thinking thereby, better to have defended our ſelves, againſt our exorbitant adverſary, but being betrayed by a falſe brother, wee were attached, and kept as cloſe priſoners, this ſixteen weeks, and as yet heares no comfort of our releaſement, yea even reliefe to ſupport nature is denyed, though petitioned for, in ſo much that if ſome ſpeedy courſe be not taken for our enlargement, our being will be yet more miſerable, ſo that noble Sir my humble ſuite is, that you would be pleaſed to remember us, when God ſhall render ſome conſiderable Priſoners into your hands, which wee conceive may gaine our Libertie, ſooner then otherwiſe, which if you will be pleaſed remember, Your Honor ſhall ever oblige,

Your ever humble Servant

*From the Caſtle of Dublin,
25. of April, 1645.*

to ſerve you

John Penſonbie.

In the next place Wee thinke fit to observe some particulars of the many apparant untruths and falsehoods contained in the said Letters, which (considered in themselves, and reflecting soe highly and uniuersally on the persons of Vs, who haue the honor to serue his Majestie in the Government of this his Kingdome) are new Offences, a part and separate from the other matters laid to their charge.

The Lady Moore in her said Letters of the 22 of April pretends first, That she still remains in a condition of harsh and cruell usage, and that she is not to expect other, from those hands by whose Rodde she is scourged, And whether or noe she hath cause so to complain appears in the proceeding with her and herein formerly mentioned.

2ly. That she hath no comfort but a iust cause, from which she saies neither she nor her Companions will shrink, though Death pursue them. And if the purposing and laboring to betray and surprize one of his Majesties Townes and Garrisons (which is the cause for which she was committed) be a iust cause, then indeed and not otherwise, is her cause iust, and consequently the resolution of her and those Companions she mentions, wherein is also observable, that she could not complaine of any such closenes of restraint, but that she and those others might have acceesse one to another, whereby she might soe well understand their mindes and resolutions, and mutually agree on an undusifull and presumptuous persisting in their Crimes.

Thirdly That her Enemies are bold and she and hers humbled, and are not to thinke of happines if it came not from the Kingdome of England, But who she means by these Enemies, Wee understand not, yet if she thereby intend Vs, Wee confesse Wee are Enemies to the Crimes wherewith she is charged, though not to her, And she had ere this time found the fruits of it in her enlargement, if enlargement be the happines she expects out of England, and that in an neerer way, then from those in England, from whom (It seemes)

seemes) she expects it, if Wee had found her carriage such, since her committall, as became her in loyalty to his Majesty and dutie to His authority.

In the said Lady Moores Letters to the Lord viscount Conway, dated the 23 of April (wherein what her expressions are towards the Lord Bishop of Oſory, and how unfit and uncomely from a person of honor, towards a person of soe eminent a Dignity in the Church, the Letters declare) she says, first that on the report of the Lord Conways death, all things which belonged to him here was thought to be disposed of, which was in the Power of the State, whereas Wee did not soe much as heare of the Lord Conways death and consequently could not therefore intend to dispose of any thing of his in Our power, and if Wee had heard of his death, and had disposed of what he held which was in our power to dispose, Wee had therein done noe wrong to him or any other.

Secondly she pretends there also cruell usage which she says power here inflicts on her and that as she alleageth, for no other cause then adhering to the English, And that her usage hath not been cruell, and that nothing is inflicted on her for adhering to the English, appears by what Wee have herein formerly declared, But that which she calls an adhering to the English, was in truth that, then which there could bee nothing at this time more prejudiciall to the English, and which (by the blessing of God on Our Endeavors for the English,) was prevented.

Thirdly that the late Lord Moores freinds are loaden with frownes and severe punishments, from those of whom they were to expect justice in another kind, which how untrue and scandalous it is, may appeare in that there is none of those she mentions, under question, but her selfe, and whether there be not cause to question her, and to proceed against her with more severity then We have hetherto done, her owne Examinations and the testimonies of others (which on tryall of the matter when it shall come to judgement,

judgement, and which in the mean time Wee forbear to prejudice) will sufficiently manifest.

Fourthly that now poore Protestants despaire of justice, and therefore must resolve to tast and drink deeply of the bitter cup before they be admitted to the sweet which is an asperition of a most high nature, and by her extended to a large latitude in sufferers, but limitted by her as to those that cause it, only to us, (for soe her Letters insinuate) whereas all our labor and endeavor is, to redeeme the poore Protestants out of their miseries, and from tasting further of that bitterness, whereof indeed Wee (with great grief and disquiet of minde) doe know and feel, that they have already too deeply tasted, wherein also We (being of them) have with them borne Our part in the comon Calamity, in a very high degree, And certainly if she have that sense of the Protestants sufferings, which she pretends, it is on her part a mean retribution of gratitude to us, who suffer and labor soe much for the benefit and security of the Protestants, to charge us soe wrongfully and unjustly, And it seemes shee bath the rather used Vs his Majesties ministers, in that manner, because the Sweet which she mentions in her Letters, she expects not from his Majesties authority entrusted with Vs, but as (her Letters imply) some other way.

Fifthly that she was on the 23 of April when her Letters were dated a close Prisoner fifteen weeks in the Castle, and noe meanes allowed her, and all sustenance taken from her, other then what she can shift for, Whereas she well knowes that she was a close Prisoner noe longer then for six dayes, namely from the 16 to the 22 of Ianuary, and that from the first moment of her being questioned, to this time, there hath been noe part of her estate in any kind soe much as touched, by any of his Majesties ministers, so carefull have Wee been of her, and soe farr from abridging her in her meanes, or taking any sustenance from her, which was never hindred but alwayes admitted her with all the respect due to a Person of her quality.

Sixtly that She knowes it will be judged harsh dealing, with the wife of him that lost his life, spent his estate to the utmost, noe way receiving any reparation, other then this she now suffers, with many threats of destroying the remaine of his deere blood, *and she concludes urging remedy* for her and others redemption out of this (*as she calls it*) cruell subjection. *That which she calls hard dealing, is the mildnes wherewith Wee have hetherto proceeded with her, and for the deceased Lord her husband Wee acknowledge his expense, his meritts, his death in his Majesties service, and Wee retaine an honorable memory thereof, And which is much more, As his Majesty by his Royall Letters sent hether soon after the Death of the late Lord Moore, was graciously pleased to take notice thereof with great honor to that Lord for his Majestie by his Royall Letters of the 15 of May last (even since he had notice of the said Lady Moores restraint) hath (in favor of the new Lord Moore her Son) required Warrant to be given for exonerating and discharging him, of all primer seissings meane profits, and other Duties whatsoever to which his Majesty is or may bee any way intituled, by the Death of his said Father, or otherwise, and likewise for all fines for alienations, and that he may sue either a generall or speciall Livery of all his Lands, without paying any thing to his Majesty for the same, which is a high and gracious favor and of great benefite and advantage to the said now Lord Moore, and Wee doubt not but (in due time) he and others of the late Lord Moores Posterity, will find further comfortable fruits of his Majesties gracious favor towards them, which Wee his Majesties Ministers will further and advance for them to His Majesty with our best endeavours, And even this Lady her selfe (if she would be pleased to value it) hath had in all her occasions, and particularly in this very matter, for which she is now questioned, much the more favour and respect from Vs, in relation to her Husbands meritts, But as to the threats of destroying the remain of his blood, Wee confesse*

ſeſſe freely that Wee cannot imagine what ſhe meanes thereby, and indeed they are tearmes as new to us, as they would have bin ſtrange in theſelves, if they had proceeded from any other, then one who hath ſuffered her ſelfe to be ſo far transported with Paſſion, as to invent ſo many other things, ſtrang and untrue, as Wee find contained in her ſaid Letters, and which Wee could not have beleevd were poſſible for her to invent, if Wee had not ſeen them in her ſaid Letters, written and ſubſcribed with her owne hand, and for her termes of cruell ſubjection, They are of the ſame peece with the reſt of her expreſſions, which yet Wee are not willing to draw into ſo ſevere a conſtruction, as the words may beare, and as perhaps ſhe intended, But Wee are heartily ſorry, that a perſon whom We ſo much regarded, and of whom wee have been ſo carefull ſhould inforce Vs, in vindicating the truth, to lay open againſt our nature, ſo much of her infirmity (that wee may call it no worſe) which muſt needs though truly reflect upon her in her honour and credit in a high degree.

Sir Patrick Wemys, in his ſaid Letters directed to Sir Robert King ſaies, that he ſuffers here for his affection, without mentioning to whom or what he is affected, and for diſaffection to thoſe that have ruined us all, and in the third place for being a Scottiſh man thoſe he ſaies are his Crimes, and addes, that if they had been greater, he did not expect ſo much ſeverity from the hands of thoſe, whom he ſaies he hath ſo faithfully and affectionatly ſerved, affirming alſo, that hee will not be found to have deſerved ſo heavy a puniſhment as is now laid upon him, And in his ſaid Letters to Colonell Wemys he ſaies he hath many enemies here, and the more becauſe he is a Scottiſh man, and in his Letters to Colonell Crawford, he ſaies, he knowes no good or juſt ground for his and Sir Robert Hannayes Comittall, but that they are Scottiſh men, and ſo fit to ſuffer whatſoever ſhall be laid on them, affirming alſo, that We will not bring them to any tryall. And it ſeemes to

Vs very strange, that he (who as well otherwise, as particularly by his owne Examination taken) knowes well the just grounds of his committall, should yet assigne three other reasons for it, and none of them true, but indeed those he chooseth rather, and especially that which runs through all his Letters, his being a Scottish man, whence though very unjustly he labours to inferr a Nationall quarrell, who yet may well remember, what particular trust and extraordinary estimation he alwaies had from *Vs* the Lord Lieutenant, and that for many yeares and so still continued, untill the very moment of the discovery of the said conspiracy, during all which time, We well knew him to be a Scottish man, which may testifie for *Vs* (especially to him) that We have no disaffection to that Nation, of whom We well know there are very many, that upon all occasions doe manifest Loyall and dutifull affections to His Majestie, and such of those as are in this Kingdom, doe gather the blessed fruits of His Majesties justice and protection, and have been and still are embraced by *Vs* His Majesties ministers, equally with his Majesties Subiects of other his Dominions, with all due respect, and that without any Nationall distinction, And whether or noe he have cause to complaine of any severity from Our hands, or that We have done any thing towards him, other then what Wee ought to have done, in the duty Wee owe to the Publique trust of his Majesties affaires, and interests here, will appeare when his owne and other Examinations taken concerning him, come to be published, and how much Wee were troubled to find Our selves enserced by him to such a proceeding against him, there are that can testifie, and Wee are well assured, he knows it, and yet that hee (of all others) should lay such a scandall on us, We cannot but be very sensible thereof. And as to that of not bringing them to triall Wee confesse Wee apprehended that deferring, as a great favour and a Degree of mercy towards them, which also will appeare in due time.

Captaine Ponsonbie in his Letters of the 25 of April directed (as is conceived) to Colonel Crawford pretends, that hee

and others had resolved to expell Rebels from Drogheda, and that he was kept close Prisoner sixteen Weekes, whereas hee well knowes, the Conspiracie was to surprize that Towne and Garrison, for which it seemes, he hath not yet repented, in that hee saies, He and the rest were betrayed by a false Brother, nor hath he dealt any truer in his allegation of close imprisonment, which he saies was sixteen weekes, whereas in truth it was but from the Eight to the 22 of January.

By all which Particulars it may appeare how false and scandalous those aspersions are, which those Persons by their said Letters desire to fasten upon Vs, and that Wee are and have been in this (as Wee have alwayes been, and shall bee in all things els) very farre from offering the least wrong or injustice, or any kind of hard measure, or harsh or cruell usage to those Persons, and especially from doing or so much as intending any thing, which may in any construction, bee conceiv'd to relate in the least degree to the raising of any Nationall quarrell or difference.

Given at his Majesties Castle of Dublin the 9 day of June 1645.

Ri. Bolton, Canc.	Roscomon.	Geo. Cloyne.
Cha. Lambart.	Arthur Chichester.	Ge. Shurley.
Gerrard Lowther.	Edw. Bolton.	Fr. Willoughby.
Tho. Lucas.	Robert Forth.	G. Wentworth.

GOD SAVE THE KING.

FINIS.

